

Allowing God to Manage My Life

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Do you *want* Him to manage your life? This is the first question you must grapple with before you sign on to God managing. If He manages it, you will have to want Him to manage it; otherwise He won't. This is because He is a gentleman, and has given you sovereignty over the decisions you make for your life. He has also given you responsibility for your choices. You get to run your own life. You have been doing so your whole life. You get to choose now, whether or not to invite Him to be Lord; boss, or manager as well as savior.

The situation is that God has allowed you to choose. You can go your own way; or you can go His way. If you are smart, you will allow Him to manage, and go His way. In these very trying times, God managing is especially important.

You can manage your life more or less. But you will do a bad or mediocre job at it by His standards. He will do a great job by His standards. And He gets to judge how you do it, or how He does it. Now tell me, how good of a job have you done so far? I'm talking spiritually speaking. Do your kids walk with God? Are you at peace with God? Do you have a good relationship with your wife (or husband)? Do you have any bitterness or resentment in your life? Do you love your neighbors? Are you successful by His standards? Do you know what His standards are?

If any of these questions are no, you need God's management in your life.

I have experience here. I needed God to manage my life, and before I tell you how to let God manage your life, I would like to tell you about how I came to let God manage my life.

My Personal Testimony

My christian life started with asking Jesus to be my savior, and being baptized when I was twelve years old at a church camp. I was an ordinary kid and didn't get into much trouble. My first interest in the Bible came in the third year of high school. Our pastor was selling family type Bibles, big ones, and I bought one with my own money. It was expensive. I didn't read it all that much but I filled out the family information section. I have kept it all these years. I am now seventy years old.

I went to church through the time I was in the Army but stopped going when I got out, and started going to college. It wasn't until 1975 that God began tugging again at my heart. I started missing God. And, one Sunday, I realized I had left God, and I became afraid I would die and go to Hell before I rededicated my life. So I ran to the nearest Church of Christ and rededicated. But I was still not born-again. I went to church for a while but my unbelieving wife would not go with me so I went alone.

In September, 1976, when my oldest daughter was four years old, and youngest daughter six months, their mother decided she wanted a divorce from me. I was devastated. I didn't know what to do. I was going to church but God was not very real to me. Some months earlier, a youth pastor was going around our neighborhood calling on people to talk about God. He talked to me, but I was not buying it.

After my wife had divorce papers served, I wondered what to do. I thought I would leave her and the kids, just run to Alaska, where my brothers lived, and start over with a new life. But I knew I really shouldn't abandon my children, so after two weeks of pondering, I finally decided I needed to stay around and try to make

it right with her and the kids.

But when I made that decision to stay, I also was forced to acknowledge that I was a failure. This was my second failed marriage. I felt terrible. It was a Sunday, so I decided to go to the youth pastors church near our house. I talked to the pastor and he agreed to come over that evening.

He came to the house and I told him about what I have told you. He said that before I could make it right with my wife and kids, I needed to make it right with God. I said to him, "What has God got to do with any of this?" (how incredibly naive!) He said to me that if I would ask God to forgive my sins, He would forgive me and would manage my life. **God managing my life!** The pastor said *my* responsibility was to do what God said in the Bible, and God would manage my life and make my life successful by His standards.¹

This is exactly what I needed; I was a failure, and I needed the God of the universe to manage my life. I asked God to forgive me and to take responsibility for success of my life. That night I was rebaptized, and a tremendous burden was lifted off my back.

I didn't have to worry about managing my life anymore. I didn't have to worry about being a failure anymore. I didn't have to worry about making a living, owning a house, being retired, none of it. It was now God's job to take care of me. It was my job to **be** a man of God.

I have sought to be a man of God ever since. I started to be a man of God by studying. I was living alone after the divorce, and I *studied* three hours a day, every day for a year. The youth pastor taught me, one on one, for that year. At 35 years old, I went to the high school bible study that he taught. I learned right along with the kids. My appetite for the Word of God was voracious. My bible, the one my mentor gave me, has been rebound twice. Its nearly worn out a third time.

I was a failure and I wanted to be different. God had a plan for my life all along. I didn't know it then but I just trusted God to make my

life successful by His standards.

Do you want God to Manage Your Life?

Here are some good reasons you should let God manage your life. You have a limited point-of-view. God has an unlimited view into the past, present and future. He has infinite knowledge and perfect character. This makes Him wiser than you.

You cannot love God by yourself. The goal in this life is to love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength.² If you allow Him to manage your life, He will show you His mercy, grace, and love which will cause you to appreciate and love Him.

What most people miss is that God really loves you and wants your best. Like any GOOD parent, loving you involves your discipline. But as soon as you encounter discipline, you tend to bail out. Remember when you were a teenager, how you rebelled. You will tend to see the discipline as punishment, or things not going well, or life is out of God's control. This is not true.

The problem is your point-of-view, not God's management. Everything that happens to you **is** under God's control.³ The whole idea here is you have to trust Him. You must *assume* that He is working in your life even when it doesn't appear so. You must *assume* He is managing your life properly, even if it appears He is not. This is the meaning of Him knowing more than you about life properly lived. This is the meaning of faith in Him.

You must *assume* God is a good parent. If you don't, you won't be able to trust Him. God is the owner, operator and chief lover of the Universe. He loves you. He has the power to make happen whatever He wants.⁴ He will take care of you until your time to go and be with Him.

So, if you have decided you need God to manage your life, read on. If not, you can quit now, and continue to do your own thing (Proverbs 21:2).

2. Matthew 22:26-28; Mark 12:29-30.

3. Read the story of Job to see this. See Jeremiah 29:11.

4. Romans 8:28

1. Matt. 6:31-34

How God Manages

The biggest problem you will ever have with God managing your life, is believing that even though you are a sinner, that God is still on your side. God takes care of you but usually it is right at the last minute before you actually have the need thrust upon you. He does that to build your faith in Him. If you need food for dinner, you may not get it until you sit down to thank God for the meal. That's right, you thank Him for it even though it has not arrived yet. That is faith.

Allowing God to manage your life is you doing your part and God doing His part. That is the essence of living where God manages your life.

God's part is to supply what you need and manage your life.

Here is your future, all decreed, and set in stone.

"I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare, and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

You want to know your future, as a believer, that's it. Remember Jer. 29:11 equals future success. Insured by declaration of the God of the Universe for your particular life. He is faithful and true to you. How God does it, is not for you to know, it's His business. It is your business to learn to cooperate. Everyone tends to be independent.

First, trust God in everything. He works for you **all** the time.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean *NOT* (emphasis mine) on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Assume He is right no matter what you think. *If you are trusting Him, whatever happens to you IS God's will for your life.* Nothing is out of His control. All is in His control. The hardest thing to do is believe what He says. The reason it is so hard, you're not absolutely sure He will come through for you. But, He will be there for you. Ask God to help your unbelief (Mk.9:24).

Second, trust God in everything.

"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who are trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." (Heb. 12:11)

Trials and troubles are not for your destruction; *they are for your training.* Remember Jer. 29:11 is your future success. Remember you are taking on the divine nature, and He will achieve it for you.

Third, did I mention that you need to trust God in everything?

Fourth, and most important of all, trust God in everything. God will take care of you.

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. "For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. "Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will he give him a stone? "Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him?" (Matt. 7:7-11)

This is God's part; to provide for you, and make happen to you what will be best for your training. Don't bail out, no matter what. Everything that happens to you **IS** His will for your life. Remember Jer. 29:11 is your future success. The next paragraph is your part.

It is your job to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and if you do, all these things; food, shelter and clothes, will be added to you (Matt. 6:33).

Not just these things but He will give much more because He loves you.

Your part is to seek Him first. His part is to provide for you, and make your life successful.

Your part is to appreciate Him working on

your behalf. His part is to provide for your needs.

Your part is to accept, with gladness, whatever happens to you, even death. His part is to provide for your future; life and needs now, and Heaven later.

One of the biggest problems for an individual to overcome is: not to bail out and do your own thing. You must allow God to cultivate dependence on Him in your life. That is the meaning of cooperation. Since we have managed our own life for so many years, it is hard to give that up.

In reality, first we give God management of our life for awhile, then we take it back. We catch our selves doing our own thing, and we give Him back management. We have to consciously practice dependence. This seesaw back and forth is normal, while you're learning. We have to consciously practice just doing *our* job; seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Let God do his job of providing, and making our life full and successful. That is: not being overly concerned or worrying about it.

You need to learn to rest in His love, knowing that everything is going to be all right; that He will take care of you. Accept His provision and rest in that (See Heb. 4:1-16). Relax in Him.

As a person of faith, God has a whole curriculum of lessons for you to learn. These lessons are given in II Peter 1:1-11. He also tells you why you should learn them. These lessons help God change you from having an "evil" nature to having a "good" nature; like God's nature. Peter calls God's nature the "divine nature."

The objective of allowing yourself to be changed is so that when we get to Heaven we will be enough like God that we are compatible with Him. Its like a married couple, they need to be compatible with each other to have a happy marriage. We need to be compatible with God to have a happy relationship in Heaven. So we have to change. It's in our best interest.

The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and good conscience and a sincere faith (I Tim 1:5).

If we just take responsibility for doing what

He asks, the Holy Spirit will accomplish the changing of our heart to the divine nature.

Managed Cooperation today, is similar to following Jesus in His day. You walk with Him from day to day, and you do what He asks as if He were standing beside you; telling you in person. Only instead of Him telling you directly, the Holy Spirit tells you from knowing the Scripture. This is what it means to follow Jesus.

God does the management, we just follow Jesus. He is responsible for our success, and we reap the benefits.

Later, when we get to Heaven, God will beam at you and say, "I am so glad you allowed me to make your life successful, your life came out just the way I planned it. Enter into the joy of your reward." And with those words, we will know we have been approved.

For more information, you can read my book, "**Managed Cooperation Theology**," Norman E. Jones, Divinely Timed Publications, 2011, available at Amazon.com. You may also go to my website at: "www.soulsurvival.info". For answers to questions, you may E-mail to:

soulsurvival@soulsurvival.info